MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 26, 1934

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1935 was held in its office in the Navy Department Building on Thursday, July 26, 1934. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Swartwout,
Mr. Clarke,
Mr. Howells,
Mr. Lawrie,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer,

Executive Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Meeting, held May 28, 1934, were approved. The Minutes of the Meeting of June 2, 1934, were approved with an amendment on page 1 to state: "Mr. Swartwout and Mr. Coolidge recommended changes in the design of the pedestal, which are to be carried out in the model by Mr. Angel." The Minutes of the Meeting of June 19, 1934, were approved.

2. PORTRAITS FOR UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE, NEW YORK CITY: Mr. Cass Gilbert, Jr., conferred with the Commission on the subject of portraits of judges proposed for the United States Court House in New York City. He said that the 27th floor of this new building has been designated as an art gallery for portraits not only of present judges but also of past and future judges. He said that there is an art committee composed of lawyers who are to advise as to these portraits and this committee is considering artists of foreign countries to paint some of the portraits. Mr. Gilbert asked whether the Commission favored such a procedure.

Mr. Moore said that the Commission of Fine Arts has always recommended that American portraits be painted by American portrait painters. Also the portraits should be uniform in size. Mr. Howells called attention to the portraits in the Ducal Palace in Venice, where a great many portraits of the Doges have been hung during a period of 300 years. He said all of these portraits are of the same size. Mr. Gilbert said he would be glad to give this information to the Chairman of the committee in New York.

3. ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL COIN: Under date of July 19, 1934, the following letter was received from the Acting Director of the Mint, requesting advice as to a design by Edward Everett Burr, sculptor, for the Arkansas Centennial coin:

Hon. Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

This Bureau submits for your consideration drawings received from the Arkansas Honorary Centennial Celebration Commission of a design of the coin authorized by Congress for that celebration.

Will you please advise this Bureau whether or not in your estimation this design is suitable.

The drawings are being sent to you by special messenger.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint.

Mr. Lawrie's attention was called to the design. On examining it he said there is nothing in it worthy of a United States coin. The obverse showed two portrait heads and the reverse a very inferior eagle.

The Commission unanimously disapproved the design and informed the Acting Director of the Mint accordingly. (Exhibit A)

4. INSCRIPTION, BRYAN MEMORIAL: A letter dated July 13, 1934, was received from Ambassador Josephus Daniels at Mexico City (Exhibit B), protesting against placing a proposed inscription on the back of the William Jennings Bryan Memorial and saying that it should be placed on the front of the pedestal. The inscription reads:

"You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold."

The Commission felt it would be better not to add to the existing lettering on the face of the pedestal but believed it would do no harm to place the inscription there and therefore acquiesced in the matter. Ambassador Daniels was informed accordingly. (Exhibit B-1)

5. ADDITION TO THE WASHINGTON POST BUILDING: Mr. Waddy B. Wood, architect, in company with Mr. William I. Deming, architect, submitted a design for an addition to the Washington Post building, the addition to be built on the west side of the main building. Mr. Swartwout and Mr. Howells inspected the design and upon their recommendation the Commission approved it. The addition harmonizes with the main portion of the building. It is to be 25 feet wide and 90 feet high, with limestone facing.

6. NEW INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Mr. Waddy B. Wood, submitted a design for the new Interior Department Building to be built at a site selected by the Secretary of the Interior along 18th Street between C and E Streets, N. W. Mr. Wood submitted an elevation of the south end of the building, which is designed in the classical order. The building is to be 574 feet long, 358 feet

wide and 72 feet high to the cornice line with a 24-foot setback. A top story was shown in the design, involving 20,000 square feet of office space and providing also for penthouse space for elevators. There is to be a corridor through the entire central portion of the building extending north and south with four wings on each side.

Mr. Swartwout and Mr. Howells gave the design special attention. In general they thought it was satisfactory; however, they recommended that the top story be removed and that the elevators be brought to the center of the building. Mr. Howells recommended an immediate return of the cornice on the side wall of each court and continuing the court wall without cornice. These suggestions were called to Mr. Wood's attention and he said he would embody them in a further study of the design. The building is to be built of limestone.

The Secretary said that there is authority of law by Congress to buy land in this area and that the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department is arranging to buy the land which the Government does not now own in these two squares.

The Commission approved the design in general and a letter was sent to the Secretary of the Interior accordingly. (Exhibit C)

7. COLUMBIA ISLAND PLAZA: Mr. Clarke said that early this morning he had talked with Professor Hubbard about a plan for Columbia Island Plaza that he had made since the June meeting of the Commission, in the hope that it would solve the problems connected with this project. Professor Hubbard was pleased with the plan and it was then brought to the attention of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which liked it and approved it.

The members of the Commission expressed their interest in the plan; whereupon Mr. Clarke showed it to the Commission and explained its features. He said: "I have maintained the central rectangular treatment which Mr. Kendall has always insisted upon. In the center of the large circle a basin and fountain should be provided with possibly low sculpture for the center at the cross axis. The plan also provides cross arms with a grass panel 200 feet wide in the center and roadways on each side adjacent to it. Appropriate space to erect the columns, indicated in the original plan of McKim, Mead and White, or other monuments, is provided, should Congress decide to do so.

"The end circles shown in Mr. Kendall's plan are omitted and instead there are simply to be roadway connections--southward to the Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway and northward to connect with the Lee Highway and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Going west the plaza connects with the Memorial Avenue to the Arlington National Cemetery."

The Commission felt that Mr. Clarke had adequately and appropriately solved the difficult problem of several years duration in preparing this plan for Columbia Island Plaza that meets the approval of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts and also includes some of the important features that have been previously stressed by McKim, Mead and White. The Commission unanimously approved the plan.

In the afternoon at a joint session of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, the plan was again presented and approved. At the same time consideration was given to the roadway connections from Columbia Island by way of the north side and the south side of Arlington National Cemetery to connect with the Lee Highway going to Shenandoah National Park and the West.

8. AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENT FARM, BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND: Mr. Delos Smith, consulting architect, said he had come at the request of Dr. A. K. Besley, Associate Bacteriologist, Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture, to submit a model for a type of house to be built at Beltsville as a part of a proposed subsistence homestead project. He said in all 150 houses are to be built, ranging from Grade A at $5,000 each to Grade D or E at $2,500 each. He submitted a model for a type D house.

The Commission felt that the house as suggested by the model would be suitable and expressed the hope that Mr. Smith would be requested by the Department of Agriculture to make the designs for all proposed types of houses. Mr. Moore said he would take up the matter with Dr. Tugwell, Undersecretary of Agriculture.

The Secretary showed the Commission a mosaic which he had received from Dr. Besley, which gives the lay-out at Beltsville.

9. BOONE MEMORIAL COIN: Mr. Boone Douglass of Washington called and submitted the following statement protesting against a design made by Mr. Augustus Lukeman for the Boone Bicentennial half-dollar which has been authorized by Congress:

July 26, 1934.

U. S. Commission of Fine Arts,
The Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

As a member of the Kentucky Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission, designated by Act of Congress to receive 600,000 Daniel Boone Half-Dollars to be sold at $1.00 each for the purpose of purchasing land for the PIONEER NATIONAL MONUMENT embracing the site of old Fort Boonesborough (1775), and the

site of other lands connected with the struggle to save the West for the United States, in which Boone played a leading part.

2. A bronze bust of Boone was placed in the Hall of Fame in 1926. The sculptor was selected by a Committee composed of three past presidents of the National Sculpture Society. A portrait bust, based upon Harding's painting of Boone, the only one taken from life at the age of 84 years, and supplemented by a study of written descriptions of Boone left by those who knew him, was developed, and is now accepted as the standard portrait of Boone during his life in Kentucky. In the more than eight years since it was unveiled there has been no adverse criticism. For this reason it was selected to appear in profile for one side of the coin.

3. Mr. Augustus Lukeman happened to be in Lexington, Ky., on June 3, 1934, and was consulted and engaged with the understanding that he submit "proposed models, in two weeks, of Boone in profile for one side and a corner of the fort for the other side."

4. Though urged to submit preliminary sketches, he submitted until July 11, when a model showing the head of Boone in profile, but not the likeness of the Hall of Fame bust. He described the other side, which was not what was requested, and, furthermore, was historically incorrect. Of this Mr. Lukeman was notified.

5. About July 19, one month later than the specified time of submitting "proposed models", Mr. Lukeman submitted models of the two sides of the coin in defiance of the wishes of Kentucky Daniel Boone Bicentennial Commission. These models were unanimously rejected, and corrections required, which Mr. Lukeman has refused to make.

6. The whole project is greatly endangered by this delay.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. Boone Douglass.

A letter had been received from Mr. Lukeman saying that he desires to have his models submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Douglass said the Boone Bicentennial Commission wants the head of Boone to be the same as that of the Hall of Fame bust of Boone by Albert Polasek. The Commission considered the matter and decided that until a design for the coin is submitted to the Commission by the Secretary of the Treasury, no action can be taken by the Commission. The Commission took the opportunity to protest by letter to the

Director of the Mint against the controversies that arise in connection with securing designs for memorial coins. (Exhibit D) A letter was also sent to Mr. Lukeman. (Exhibit D-1)

10. LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR FRANKLIN SQUARE: Mr. Malcolm Kirkpatrick, Resident Landscape Architect of the National Park Service, submitted a design for the landscaping of Franklin Square. This was inspected by Mr. Clarke and in conference with the other members of the Commission several changes in it were suggested: access to the park from I and K Streets; the pool to be oval in shape with coping and the oval to be inclosed with a hedge; the park to be screened from the street; a planting plan to be prepared with the planting as simple as possible; unnecessary spots of shrubbery to be eliminated. The plan was approved with these suggested changes, which are to be embodied in it. (Exhibit E)

11. LEE HIGHWAY: Dr. S. M. Johnson, General Manager of the Lee Highway Association, was present and asked that the Commission of Fine Arts endorse a dual roadway plan for the Lee Highway, that is a strip of planting 30 feet wide in the center of the roadway with driveways on either side. Dr. Johnson said that it is too late to construct this on all parts of the Lee Highway but that it could be done from station 107 on the west side of Arlington National Cemetery (where a circle is to be created) to Columbia Island. Mr. Clarke suggested that Dr. Johnson draw up a plan illustrating the scheme and submit it to the Bureau of Public Roads. The Commission concurred in the suggestion of Mr. Clarke.

12. MURAL PAINTING FOR ARCHIVES BUILDING: Mr. Louis Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, submitted a print of a painted sketch by Barry Faulkner for a mural painting to be placed in the Archives Building. It was of a historical character portraying several of the leaders of the

Republic in George Washington's time. Mr. Simon protested against carrying out the painting suggested by the sketch. He said it was limited to the early days of the Republic. Also he said this painting is to be placed in the entrance hall, which is 70 feet high, and he felt certain the figures would be disproportionately large.

Mr. Moore, speaking for the Commission, said there are several great historical periods of the United States which could well be illustrated in a large mural painting for the Archives Building.

The Commission decided that it would be inappropriate to carry out the sketch of Mr. Faulkner but at the same time recognized Mr. Faulkner as an artist of ability. Mr. Simon was informed accordingly. (Exhibit F)

13. HEADSTONES FOR NATIONAL CEMETERIES: Mr. A. E. Demaray, Acting Director of the National Park Service, submitted the following telegram received from the Director, together with a statement from Mr. Thomas Vint, Chief Architect, suggesting flat stones for the national cemeteries:

> Please advise Vint relative his Memorandum July ninth concerning general policy for head stones to take this up in detail with Fine Arts Commission at their meeting on 26th and prepare detailed report to me on their findings. Hold this report for Staff consideration on my return. Even after Fine Arts approval any change should be taken up with local patriotic organizations to secure their concurrence.
>
> Cammerer.

July 9, 1934.

Memorandum to the Director.

> I have just completed a trip through the territory covered by our Chattanooga office. As you know it contains quite a number of National Cemeteries. I find that the headstones on the graves in the National Cemeteries have a very definite landscape value. Modern Cemetery design, in private work, is moving toward the memorial type of headstone, whereby the headstones are not conspicuous. All the graves are marked by a slab laid flat on the ground.

I recommend that you consider a general policy for National Cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, that all headstones be laid flush with the surface of the ground. This could be accomplished by cutting off the existing stones at the ground level, discarding the piece that is now below ground, and taking the piece that is now above ground and laying it flush side up. This would reduce the maintenance cost of keeping the grass up, avoid clipping the markers and avoid lawn mowers nicking the corners of the grave stones. The principal value will be in the general approval of the landscape appearance of the cemeteries.

Thos. C. Vint

The Commission considered the matter carefully and decided that it would be unwise to adopt the suggestion. It was pointed out that for the American cemeteries in Europe the Commission had recognized three elements, namely, the small headstones, the green grass and the trees. These features predominate in the Civil War section of Arlington National Cemetery and make it the most beautiful part of that cemetery. The Commission felt that this formula should be applied to other national cemeteries in the United States. Also the Commission believed that the National Park Service would invite a great deal of trouble with local organizations in attempting to remove the existing small headstones and substitute flat stones. The National Park Service was informed accordingly. (Exhibit G)

14. JOINT MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION: A joint meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission was held in the afternoon beginning at 2:00 p. m. The following items were considered:

a. Program for New Bridges in the District of Columbia:

Mr. George C. Shinn, Chairman of the Committee on Bridges of the Washington Board of Trade submitted a report (Exhibit H) for the consideration of the Commissions. The report recommended ten new bridges for the city to be built

from a desired allotment of $20,000,000 from the Public Works Administration fund. Mr. Shinn said the committee took up the matter with the sub-committee on appropriations for the District of Columbia last winter and endeavored to get $10,000 for plans for a new Chain Bridge but that objection was raised by the committee to paying for the bridge out of District of Columbia funds when it would abut Virginia or Maryland territory.

Mr. Shinn pointed out that there are only two good bridges crossing the Potomac River, namely, the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Key Bridge, and that all of the others crossing the rivers are obsolete. The following ten new bridges were recommended:

Chain Bridge
Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, S. E.
Columbia Island Bridges.
Washington Channel Bridge.
Bridge on the Extension of Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Fort Drive Bridge at D. C. Boundary Line, towards Hyattsville.
Great Falls Bridge.
New Highway Bridge.
South Capitol Street Bridge.

Mr. Shinn called upon representatives of the communities where these new bridges would be located to express the need of the bridge in their particular locality.

The members of both Commissions listened to the report with interest. Major Gotwals said that the District Commissioners have recently decided to put in an estimate for a new Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge but if the Government wants to pay for the bridge the Commissioners would not object. He said further that a steel bridge has been suggested for Pennsylvania Avenue southeast, and Mr. Clarke replied that he would consider a steel bridge suitable for that location.

After further discussion, during which the locations of the proposed bridges were discussed and pointed out on the map, Mr. Delano spoke for both

Commissions, suggesting that Mr. Shinn's committee draw up a list of priorities as he thought the committee would have a better chance to get an allotment for a few of the bridges most urgently needed than to get the full allotment at once. The committee is to take up further details with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Mr. Moore speaking for the Commission of Fine Arts said that this Commission is primarily interested in the designs but would help the Board of Trade committee in such ways as are possible.

b. Ward Circle:

The location plan for the General Artemas Ward Statue at the intersection of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues was given careful study. Major Gotwals, Engineer Commissioner, said his office insists on an oval and that the National Capital Park and Planning Commission would be willing to see it tried out. Mr. Moore and Mr. Clarke objected to the scheme; they said the amount of traffic at this place does not justify having "crescents". However, after discussion, Mr. Moore and Mr. Clarke decided that the paving should not be held up so that the site may be made available for the statue without further delay. This decision was transmitted in writing to Major Gotwals. (Exhibit I; see also I-1)

c. Columbia Island Plaza:

Mr. Clarke submitted the plan designed by him for Columbia Island Plaza and explained the features of it which he had mentioned at the morning session of the Commission of Fine Arts. The members of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission expressed their appreciation of the plan and it was approved by both Commissions.

A discussion ensued as to the treatment of the roadways to extend from Columbia Island via the south and north sides of Arlington National Cemetery

to connect with the Lee Highway and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Mr. Demaray said that an allotment of $280,000 has been made out of Public Works funds for the connection from the north end of Columbia Island with the George Washington Memorial Parkway to the Key Bridge. The importance of getting money to build the bridge across the channelat this place was emphasized. Mr. R. E. Toms, Engineer of the Bureau of Public Roads, was present and said that $150,000 has been allotted by the Virginia Highway Commission for the Lee Highway in cooperation with the Bureau of Public Roads to provide the connection by way of the north side of Arlington National Cemetery from a point near the Alexandria Pike to station 107 as part of the Lee Highway.

d. Landscape Plan for South End of Connecticut Avenue (Taft) Bridge:

Mr. John Nolen, Director of Planning of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, reported that strong protest had been made against making any changes in the approach to the Connecticut Avenue Bridge from the south. Upon his recommendation both Commissions decided to hold the project in abeyance indefinitely.

e. Statue of Joseph Henry:

Mr. C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks, reported that the location selected by the Smithsonian Institution for the statue of Joseph Henry places the statue in a hollow but that a place has been selected by his office which would set the statue at grade. A plan was submitted showing the location for the statue to be directly in front of the Smithsonian Building. The secretary looked at the site and recommended that the Commission give the matter further attention at the next meeting.

f. Inspection of Mall Lighting:

An inspection was made by the National Capital Park and Planning Com-

mission and the Commission of Fine Arts at 8:30 p. m. of the lighting standards that had been erected at the head of the Mall (at Third Street). These standards were three in number, each 22 feet high and with a double light, each light of 600 Watts, which the Commission thought was too much and that it should rather be 400. Mr. Lawrie thought it would improve the lighting if a thicker glass were used for the globes, possibly a little off white in color so that the light would be strong enough and also be diffused more than it was when the Commission saw it. This question as also the question of lights for the secondary drives, is to be considered at a future meeting.

A representative of the General Electric Company, Mr. Halverson, was present. He said that the poles had not been finally designed and that the light was strong in order to meet the requirements specified by the National Park Service that the light should illuminate both sidewalk and the driveway without, however, lighting the Washington Monument. The poles were placed 10 feet from the trees and three feet out towards the sidewalk. The lamp standards would range from 176 to 280 feet apart. Mr. Swartwout said that he had written to London for information as to the lamp standards used on the embankment of the Thames but had not received a reply.

It was decided that another inspection should be made sometime later. Subsequently Mr. C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent of the National Capital Parks, reported that the Public Works Administration had urged that the work on the Mall proceed and, therefore, the National Park Service is very anxious to have an approval of the location of the lamp standards on the Mall so that the conduits could be laid. The work is being delayed pending an approval of this matter.

Accordingly the secretary took up the question further with the members who inspected the lamp standards, and Mr. Clarke, who approved their location for the main drives of the Mall, namely the North Vista and the South Vista Drives; also they approved a double light for the lamp standards. Details as to the lamp standards are to be considered by the Commission at a future meeting. Mr. Finnan was informed accordingly. (Exhibit J)

The Commission adjourned at 10:00 p. m.

INDEX


| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES. | 1 |
| 2. | PORTRAITS FOR UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE, NEW YORK CITY. | 1 |
| 3. | ARKANSAS CENTENNIAL COIN. | 2 |
| 4. | INSCRIPTION BRYAN MEMORIAL. | 3 |
| 5. | ADDITION TO WASHINGTON POST BUILDING. | 3 |
| 6. | NEW INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING. | 3 |
| 7. | COLUMBIA ISLAND PLAZA. | 4 |
| 8. | AGRICULTURE EXPERIMENT FARM, BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND. | 6 |
| 9. | BOONE MEMORIAL COIN. | 6 |
| 10. | LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR FRANKLIN SQUARE. | 8 |
| 11. | LEE HIGHWAY. | 8 |
| 12. | MURAL PAINTING FOR ARCHIVES BUILDING. | 8 |
| 13. | HEADSTONES FOR NATIONAL CEMETERIES. | 9 |
| 14. | a. Program for New Bridges, D. C. | 10 |
| | b. Ward Circle. | 12 |
| | c. Columbia Island Plaza. | 12 |
| | d. Landscape Plan, South End Connecticut Avenue Bridge. | 13 |
| | e. Statue of Joseph Henry. | 13 |
| | f. Inspection of Mall Lighting. | 13 |

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

Dear Miss O'Reilly:

The sketch for the Arkansas Memorial Coin, which you submitted with your letter of July 19, received the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 26, 1934. The sketch was given particular attention by Mr. Lee Lawrie, sculptor member of the Commission.

The Commission recommend the disapproval of the sketch because of unsuitability for a coin of the United States.

The Commission suggest that the Arkansas authorities be requested to submit another sketch prepared in accordance with the established laws of medallic designs as followed by the United States Mint.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Miss M. M. O'Reilly,
Acting Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

México, July 13, 1934.

Dear Mr. Moore:

The Bryan Commission feels it desirable that Mr. Bryan's most popular utterance, known as "The Cross of Gold" extract from his speech in the Chicago Convention in 1896, be inscribed on the face of the pedestal. Orders had been given to Mr. Borglum to add these words, subject of course to the approval of the Fine Arts Commission.

I have been informed that there has been a suggestion from some quarter that the inscription instead of being lettered on the front of the pedestal should be placed on the back of the statue. My own opinion is - and I hold it strongly - that these famous words should be placed where every visitor could read them as he gazed at the face of Bryan. The figure represents Bryan as speaking, and employing his most emphatic gesture, and uttering the words: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold". The statue indicates clearly that he was uttering this sentence as he raised his hand with index finger extended.

My associates on the Bryan Commission feel strongly that it would be a mistake to letter the words quoted above on the back of the pedestal, and I concur in their view. If some quotation, not used in his most famous oration, was to be used to illustrate his philosophy, I can see the propriety of placing it on the back. However, as the figure is in action, the pose being to convey Bryan in the attitude of seriously hurling defiance to those whom he was condemning, and it seems that the words should be read by every passer by as he looks up into the serious and tense face of the orator.

I sincerely hope the Fine Arts Commission will agree that this reasoning is sound.

With thanks for all your courtesies and my profound appreciation of the great work of the Fine Arts Commission, I am, with sentiments of esteem and high regards,

Sincerely yours,

Josephus Daniels

Hon. Charles Moore,
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Your letter of July 13, was brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting yesterday.

The Commission are happy to acquiesce in your request that the proposed inscription for the William Jennings Bryan Statue be placed on the front of the pedestal.

With kindest regards and all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Josephus Daniels,
Ambassador to Mexico,
American Embassy,
Mexico City, Mexico.

EXHIBIT B-1

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

Sir:

The Secretary of the Interior having selected the two blocks south of Rawlins Square for a new building for the Department of the Interior, and having submitted through the architect selected by him, Mr. Waddy B. Wood, tentative sketches for such building, these sketches were discussed by Mr. Wood with the Commission of Fine Arts on July 26. In general the sketches were approved, subject to a restudy of certain features, as agreed upon by the architect and the Commission.

The suggested changes do not involve essentials in the design. The restudy is to be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts at a subsequent meeting.

The architect has been asked also to study the relation of the building to Virginia Avenue.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

Dear Madam:

Under Executive Order the designs for United States coins are submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice. Of late Congress has authorized a considerable number of memorial coins and controversies in regard to the designs and the designers have come frequently to this Commission. One such controversy has arisen over the designer for the Daniel Boone Memorial Coin.

To the people who have come to the Commission we have uniformly stated that until a design is submitted to the Commission by the Director of the Mint through the Secretary of the Treasury, the Commission have no power to act. Such submission having been made, the Commission are always ready to discuss the design with the artist, with a view of making helpful suggestions for the production of a coin which represents the dignity of the Government and, therefore, should be designed in accordance with good practice among medallists.

I am writing you this letter so that you will understand that the Commission desire to cooperate with the Bureau of the Mint in securing the best possible designs for coins by giving such advice as seems to them desirable. The decision has always been with the Secretary of the Treasury.

It would be interesting to the Commission to know the number of memorial coins struck during recent years, together with the circulation attained by such coins.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Honorable
The Director of the Mint,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

My dear Mr. Lukeman:

Your letter of July 21, with regard to the Boone Centennial Coin, has been received.

I am sorry to learn that there has been a controversy in regard to the matter of the design, and I regret to have to say to you that until a design for the coin has been submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts by the Secretary of the Treasury, the Commission is powerless to take any action in the matter.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Augustus Lukeman,
160 West 86th Street,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT D-1

C O P Y

August 2, 1934.

Dear Mr. Demaray:

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, held on July 26, 1934, Mr. Malcolm Kirkpatrick, Resident Landscape Architect of your office, submitted a landscape plan for Franklin Square. Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke, landscape architect member of the Commission, gave the plan particular attention and in consultation with the other members of the Commission made certain suggestions for changes which have been embodied in the plan.

This plan, a print of which is inclosed, the Commission of Fine Arts approve with the understanding that final detailed grading and paving, construction and planting plans are submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts before the work goes forward.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary.

Mr. A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts listened with interest to your explanation of the photograph showing the first stage of Mr. Barry Faulkner's studies for the murals in the exhibition hall of the National Archives Building.

The Commission is in agreement with you that the subject treated is too narrow and agree that a more comprehensive treatment of the matter is desirable in connection with the wide range of materials to be housed in the Archives Building.

At the same time this Commission desire to express their confidence in the ability of Mr. Barry Faulkner as an artist capable of producing satisfactory mural paintings for the Archives Building.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

Dear Mr. Cammerer:

Acting on your telegraphic request received yesterday, the Commission of Fine Arts considered the memorandum prepared by Mr. Thomas C. Vint, in regard to the headstones on the graves in the National Cemeteries.

This Commission calls attention to the fact that the sub-committee of the Commission of Fine Arts which prepared plans for the cemeteries in Europe adopted the general plan of the national cemeteries of the Civil War, composed of three elements--the small white stones, the green grass, and the trees overhead. In the minds of the Commission these Civil War cemeteries are models of peaceful, appropriate and thoroughly artistic conceptions of what a cemetery should be. Time has added to their simple attractiveness by the weathering of the stone. This idea was well expressed in the Report of the Senate Park Commission of 1901, as there stated by Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

The Commission advised that similar stones should be used for French, Belgian and English cemeteries. The design was made by the late Charles A. Platt at the request of the War Department. The American Battle Monuments Commission, however, decided upon the

EXHIBIT G

use of the cross in stone for the foreign cemeteries, designed by instruction by Dr. Paul Cret. There is a question as to the durability of such markers.

The Commission cannot approve the idea of cutting off the present headstones and laying them flat on the surface of the ground in existing cemeteries. Whether the Commission might be disposed to recommend flat stones in the case of the proposed enlarged portion of Arlington Cemetery is a matter which has not as yet had the consideration of this Commission.

Such a procedure as Mr. Vint suggests, in the opinion of the Commission would be expensive beyond justification by the results that would be achieved. Moreover, this Commission anticipates that the objections that would be raised to such a change would be such as practically to defeat the project.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Arno B. Cammerer, Director,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

July 26, 1934.

The Committee on Bridges of the Washington Board of Trade is much interested in a program to erect several new bridges in the National Capital that are urgently needed, to be built from a desired allotment of $20,000,000 out of the Public Works Administration fund. We have therefore asked for this conference with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts to consider the matter. Our opinion is that this is a Federal project for the improvement of the National Capital and that the new bridges should be paid for out of a Federal appropriation. We are submitting an outline of the program with estimate of cost of the bridges, as follows:

1. Chain Bridge, to be built at the site agreed upon by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, that is, near the Filtration Plant and the District of Columbia Boundary Line, about one-fourth mile north of the old Chain Bridge. It is to be a high level bridge, 1800 feet in length. Estimated cost $3,000,000.

2. Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, S. E. This bridge was built about 1890 and has long been considered obsolete. It is a narrow bridge of only 24-foot roadway, yet there are as many as 14,000 automobiles that cross the bridge daily. It is located at the main entrance to the National Capital from the Southeast and serves a growing community on the other side of the Anacostia. This bridge will be 1600 feet long. Estimated cost $5,000,000.

EXHIBIT H

3 and 4. Columbia Island Bridges. To connect Washington with Virginia there is need of two additional Boundary Channel bridges--one to connect with the proposed Lee Highway at the north end of Columbia Island and also with the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Also a Boundary Channel Bridge to connect with a roadway to extend along the south side of Arlington National Cemetery is needed. These two bridges were planned in connection with the Arlington Memorial Bridge project. The estimated cost of each of these bridges is $300,000--a total of $600,000.

5. Washington Channel Bridge. The plans for the development of Water Street call for a short traffic bridge to avoid congestion on entering and leaving East Potomac Park. This bridge should be built, therefore, at the head of the Washington Channel. Estimated cost $700,000.

6. Bridge on the extension of Maryland Avenue, N. E., crossing the Anacostia River. The need for this bridge has been emphasized by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to give direct connection with Kenilworth and other communities in this vicinity. Estimated cost, $1,000,000.

7. Fort Drive Bridge at D. C. Boundary Line, towards Hyattsville. This bridge would cross the Anacostia connecting the Fort Drive, and would also serve as a traffic connection with highways going northeast into Maryland. The bridge would divert excess traffic from the Defense Highway leading into Washington. It would give the citizens of Cheverly a direct connection with the National Capital. The bridge is recommended by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Estimated cost,

$700,000.

8. Great Falls Bridge. During the legislative proceedings for the George Washington Memorial Parkway, protest was made on the floor of the House of Representatives against a toll bridge at Great Falls, since the Government would have a memorial parkway on each side of the Potomac leading to Great Falls. The Great Falls Bridge Company, which has been in existence for three or four years, has thus far done little more than to secure plans for the bridge and make application to Congress for permission to build the bridge. If built by the Great Falls Bridge Company, it would seem that the bridge would have to be a toll bridge in order that the company could meet its expenses. To obviate this situation for all time, the United States Government should build the bridge at Great Falls, connecting the George Washington Memorial Parkway on the Maryland and Virginia sides at this point. The Great Falls of the Potomac are considered one of the wonders of the Atlantic Coast and for this reason, as well as a Parkway connection, a bridge at Great Falls has long been considered highly desirable. Electric Railway Service was abandoned June 17, 1934. The estimated cost of the bridge is $3,000,000.

9. New Highway Bridge. A study should be made for a new Highway Bridge. The present Highway Bridge is obsolete as to both capacity and appearance, and a new bridge should be built. It is an eyesore as seen from the White House and in its location at the leading entrace to the National Capital from the South, on U. S. Route No. 1, from Maine to Florida. Estimated cost, $3,000,000.

Likewise the railroad bridge was designed for strictly utilitarian

purposes and before the park system on both sides of the Potomac was developed. While studies for a new Highway Bridge are being made it would be well to have a study made for a new railroad bridge.

10. South Capitol Street Bridge. Recently application has been made by citizens of Anacostia and Congress Heights for a bridge from the end of South Capitol Street across the river. It has been found that Congress authorized a study for such a bridge as far back as 1875 but the construction of the bridge did not materialize. Some objection has recently been raised by officials of the airports at Bolling Field to the construction of a bridge at this place. However, there is need of a bridge at this location, and it deserves careful study. Estimated cost, $3,000,000.

Of course, in this estimate, dignified, monumental stone bridges appropriate for the National Capital of this country are considered. Much cheaper bridges could be built, but they would be utilitarian bridges and would be unsatisfactory aesthetically. They would not be considered a contribution to the development of the National Capital.

The many miles of waterfront that surround Washington are one of the attractions of the National Capital, yet the city at the present time has only two fine monumental bridges crossing the rivers, namely, the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Comparatively few bridges cross the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers for a city of the size and importance of Washington. Also it is to be noted that all the bridges, excepting the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Key Bridge, crossing these streams, are obsolete and should be replaced by

new structures.

From the standpoint of a public works project I do not think there is any that would call for such a comparatively small amount of money with such great and far-reaching results. For the Arlington Memorial Bridge and its approaches, Congress appropriated $14,500,000. Yet for all of these ten bridges not more than $20,000,000 will be needed. For the new Federal buildings and certain other projects, as Union Station Plaza, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Congress authorized an expenditure of $400,000,000. The Act creating the George Washington Memorial Parkway and providing additional park areas for the National Capital contemplated an expenditure of $35,000,000 for parkways and playgrounds of the National Capital. A program for new bridges is, therefore, quite in order and appropriate bridges for the locations above mentioned would not only enhance the beauty of the National Capital but would also provide a much needed improvement.

Also, the project would give employment to many workmen in need of employment and it is therefore a project that can properly come under the Public Works Administration.

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

Dear Major Gotwals:

The Commission of Fine Arts recognize the power of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to reject the advice of the Commission that a circle rather than an ellipse, with appurtenant segments, be created at the intersection of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, as a fitting setting for the statue of General Artemas Ward, the gift of Harvard University.

The Commission do not desire further to delay this work at this intersection.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major John C. Gotwals,
Engineer Commissioner of the
District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT I

ENGINEER COMMISSIONER
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON

RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON D.C.
JUL. 31 1934

July 30, 1934.

Hon. Charles Moore,
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts,
Navy Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Doctor Moore:

I have your magnanimous letter of July 27th in reference to the development of the circle at the intersection of Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues.

The District Commissioners will proceed with the development of this circle at once, and will take every precaution to obtain good results. Your fine cooperative spirit in this is thoroughly realized, and I am hoping that our work will please you.

Very sincerely yours,

John C. Gotwals,
Major, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.,
Engineer Commissioner.

EXHIBIT I-1

C O P Y

August 14, 1934.

Dear Mr. Finnan:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 26, 1934, were pleased to inspect with members of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the lamp standards erected on the Mall at Third Street.

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the location of these light standards on the two main drives, namely, the North Vista Drive and the South Vista Drive, from Third to Fourteenth Streets, as shown on the plans of your office for the Mall Nos. 35-156 and 35-157.

The Commission approve a double light standard with the understanding that details of the lamp posts will be submitted to the Commission at a future meeting.

The Commission felt that 600 Watts made too strong a light and think 400 Watts should be used; also that it would improve the lighting if a thicker glass were used for the globes, possibly a little off the white color so that the light should be strong enough but would be diffused more than it was when the Commission saw it. The Commission will give consideration to this question and to the question of lights for the secondary drives at a future meeting.

Details in connection with the lamp standards can be given consideration by the Commission of Fine Arts at their next meeting, which will very probably be held in Washington the latter part of September.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary.

Mr. C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent,
National Capital Parks,
National Park Service,
Interior Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J